

Final Report of the Education Scrutiny Committee - Home to School Transport Services

Summary

1. This paper is to present the final report attached at Annex A, of the Education Scrutiny Committee regarding home to school transport contracts for primary schools in York.
2. Members of the Executive are asked to consider endorsing the recommendations contained in the final report and in the table attached at Annex G.

Background

3. In August 2006 Cllr Charles Hall registered a scrutiny topic which asked members to investigate the contracts for home to school transport and to consider if it would be possible to introduce higher quality buses and also to improve safety.
4. Education Scrutiny Committee carried out the agreed review and at their meeting on 27 February 2007 approved the recommendations in their final report.
5. Subsequently on 1 March 2007, Cllr David Scott submitted some amendments to the report for Members consideration. Members agreed that Cllr Scott had made some good points but that they did not add anything new to the recommendations except for the inclusion of secondary school transport. As the remit for this scrutiny topic specifically refers to primary schools, it was agreed that it would not be advisable for the Scrutiny committee to make recommendations to the Executive for which they had sought no evidence nor investigated the implications. The consensus of opinion therefore was that Cllr Scott's amendments should not be used to alter the recommendations put before Scrutiny Management Committee.
6. On 26 March 2007 Scrutiny Management Committee considered the final report and acknowledged that the Executive may need to consider whether to apply the recommendations contained in the report to secondary schools as well as primary schools in line with any future legislative requirements arising from the Education & Inspection Bill.

Consultation

7. A full list of those consulted is included in the final report attached at annex A.

Options

8. Members can support all, some or none of the recommendations proposed as a result of this review. Alternatively Members may wish to defer a decision on the recommendations for consideration at a later date in conjunction with any recommendations arising from the wider transport review presently being conducted by Kendric Ash (as detailed in the report attached).

Analysis

9. Full analysis of the findings of the review is contained within the final report.

Corporate Priorities

10. In keeping with Corporate Priority 2 i.e. to increase the use of public and other environmentally friendly modes of transport.

Implications

11. The implications of the recommendations made are contained within the final report.

Risk Management

12. Potentially there are risks associated with whether or not to implement the proposed recommendations, and analysis of these would need to be undertaken and fully understood.

Recommendations

13. The recommendation made are contained within the final report at Annex A.

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Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers - None

Annexes

- Annex A - Final Report
- Annex B – Letter from Edna Hughes dated 25 March 2006
- Annex C – Survey of users of school transport service at Archbishops of York's Primary School dated December 2006
- Annex D – East Riding of Yorkshire Council's guidelines for employment of drivers after CRB check
- Annex E – Report of Kendric Ash to Executive Member for Corporate Services Advisory Panel on 12 December 2006
- Annex F – Comments on safety issues form Top Line Travel of York dated 27 November 2006
- Annex G - Table of Recommendations and Implications for Executive response